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MONTANA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

September 2002

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

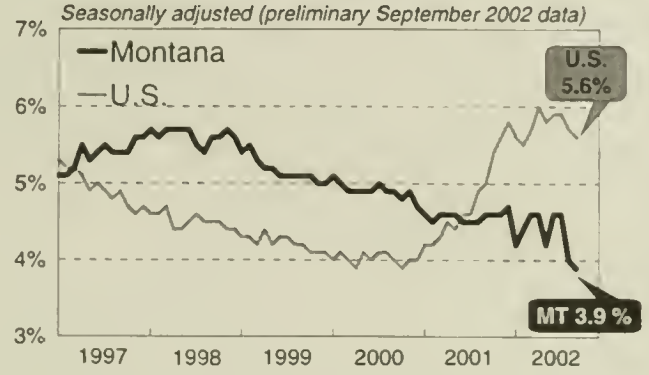
Not seasonally adjusted

	Sept. 2001	Sept. 2002*
UNITED STATES	4.7%	5.4%
MONTANA	3.7%	3.1%
Cascade **	4.2%	3.2%
Missoula **	2.9%	2.5%
Yellowstone **	3.0%	2.6%
Beaverhead	2.4%	3.0%
Big Horn	18.5%	11.9%
Blaine	4.3%	4.0%
Broadwater	2.7%	3.0%
Carbon	3.6%	2.7%
Carter	1.7%	1.6%
Chouteau	2.7%	1.8%
Custer	2.3%	2.0%
Daniels	1.7%	1.2%
Dawson	2.7%	1.7%
Deer Lodge	4.9%	4.4%
Fallon	2.1%	2.3%
Fergus	3.8%	3.0%
Flathead	4.5%	3.4%
Gallatin	2.0%	1.6%
Garfield	1.5%	1.3%
Glacier	9.0%	6.0%
Golden Valley	3.3%	2.1%
Granite	4.9%	3.9%
Hill	3.7%	2.9%
Jefferson	4.2%	3.5%
Judith Basin	2.8%	2.7%
Lake	5.9%	5.2%
Lewis & Clark	3.9%	3.3%
Liberty	2.7%	2.1%
Lincoln	7.3%	7.3%
McCone	1.2%	0.8%
Madison	2.0%	2.0%
Meagher	4.1%	2.7%
Mineral	6.4%	5.6%
Musselshell	6.5%	4.7%
Park	3.0%	2.5%
Petroleum	0.6%	1.5%
Phillips	2.5%	2.6%
Pondera	3.9%	3.2%
Powder River	1.4%	1.2%
Powell	3.2%	3.6%
Prairie	2.1%	2.4%
Ravalli	3.6%	3.2%
Richland	4.0%	4.3%
Roosevelt	6.0%	6.0%
Rosebud	5.5%	4.7%
Sanders	5.6%	4.9%
Sheridan	2.3%	2.2%
Silver Bow	4.2%	3.9%
Stillwater	2.6%	2.5%
Sweet Grass	1.4%	2.1%
Teton	2.8%	2.2%
Toole	2.8%	1.9%
Treasure	1.8%	1.8%
Valley	3.3%	2.1%
Wheatland	3.4%	2.7%
Wibaux	1.1%	2.3%

**September 2002 rate preliminary*
*** Cascade=Great Falls MSA*
Missoula= Missoula MSA
Yellowstone=Billings MSA

September 2002 HIGHLIGHTS

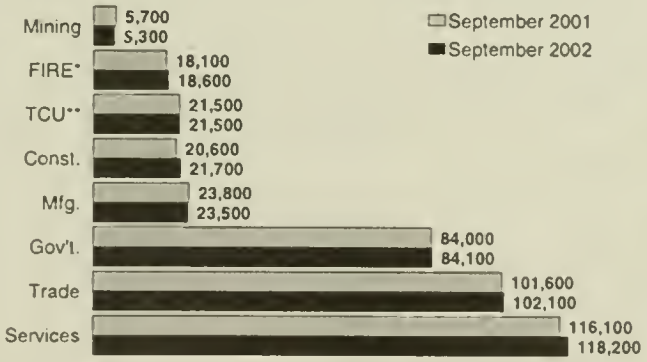
Unemployment



Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in September was 3.9 percent—the lowest of any month on record since 1978, and 1.7 percentage points below the national rate of 5.6 percent.

Nonag Payroll Employment

Montana Jobs (Seasonally Adjusted)



*Finance/Insurance/Real Estate **Transportation/Communications/Utilities

Seasonally adjusted, Montana's nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 3,600 jobs (nine-tenths of a percentage point) over the year in September. Business services, health services and construction (general building and special trades) showed the largest over-the-year job gains.

Earnings

Average weeky earnings for Montana's private sector production workers were up 3.5 percent over the year in September, outpacing the 1.5 percent over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

AVG ANNUAL UNEMPLOYMENT

MONTANA AND U.S.

The table below shows the average annual unemployment rates for Montana and the United States for the past 11 years.

Year	MT	US
2001	4.6%	4.8%
2000	4.9%	4.0%
1999	5.2%	4.2%
1998	5.6%	4.5%
1997	5.4%	4.9%
1996	5.3%	5.4%
1995	5.9%	5.6%
1994	5.1%	6.1%
1993	6.1%	6.9%
1992	6.9%	7.5%
1991	7.1%	6.8%

ONLINE AT

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Workforce Services Division
Montana Dept. of Labor & Industry
840 Helena Ave.
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Helena MT 59624
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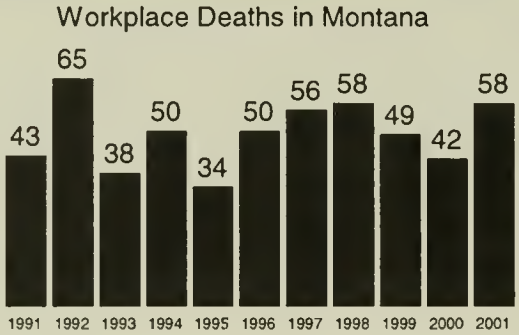
MONTANA'S WORK-RELATED DEATHS INCREASE IN 2001



Work-related deaths increased in Montana from 2000 to 2001, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries report just released by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

- Deaths were up 38.1 percent over the year with 58 workplace deaths in 2001, compared to 42 in 2000.
- Work-related deaths were highest among those 45-54 years old:

20-24 years	5 deaths
25-34 years	9 deaths
35-44 years	14 deaths
45-54 years	16 deaths
55-64 years	8 deaths
65 and older	6 deaths

- Males accounted for 88 percent of the deaths, females 12 percent.
- Transportation accidents accounted for 27 of the 58 deaths, followed by 13 "violent act" deaths and 10 "contacts with objects or equipment" deaths.
- The industries with the largest number of deaths were:
  - Transportation & public utilities – 12
  - Agriculture, forestry & fishing – 10
  - Manufacturing – 7
  - Government – 7
  - Services – 6
  - Mining – 6
- 41 of the 58 who died were wage-and-salary workers. 17 were self-employed.

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